

## The Situation

*Monday, July 27, 7:12 p.m.*

**You and five coworkers are finishing a presentation for tomorrow's early morning meeting. You are in the basement library of your 10-story downtown office building.**

"Oh my gosh, what is happening?"

"I can't stand up."

"I think it's an earthquake! Watch out for those books, take cover, and get under the table!"

"Oh no, there go the lights!"

**The building shakes violently and then stops. There is a deathly silence except for the slow groan of the building settling. You begin to pick yourselves up and assess the damage.**

"Is everyone OK?"

"I think so, but my arm hurts."

"I've got a cut on my leg. One of those huge reference books hit me."

"Hey, does it look like the column in the corner came up over there?"

"It sure does. I wonder how badly the rest of the building was damaged?"

"How can you see anything in the dark?"

"There is some light coming in from the crack in the wall over there near the water heater. I'll go over and take a closer look."

"Forget about the damage, let's get out of here before the rest of the building gives way!"

"I think I smell gas. Does anyone else?"

"Do you hear a hissing sound?"

"I'm not sure if that is hissing or the building moving."

"Hey everyone, we aren't going anywhere. The stairs to the basement are completely blocked. There must be a ton of concrete here."

"We have to get out of here. The whole building could cave in!"

"Everyone needs to calm down. We need to start looking for another way out. What about the elevator?"

"Nope, the shaft is jammed with rubble. I can feel a draft coming down, but I can't see through all the debris."

"Can we climb up on the water heater, and get out of the crack you found in the wall? The water heater seems to be OK."

"Forget that idea. Only a small animal could fit through here."

"I'll check the phone. Maybe we can call for help. The telephone lines are not always damaged in these things... Forget it, the lines are dead."

"You obviously haven't experienced a bad one yet. A great deal more than telephones lines are usually damaged."

"How do you know it was a bad one?"

"It lasted longer and shook us around a lot more than most of them do."

"Oh, so that makes you an authority on earthquakes?"

"Would you two stop arguing and come over here with the rest of us?! I found a radio by the janitor's work bench. The news report will be a far more reliable source of information than you two."

*We interrupt this broadcast to bring you an Action One special report...*

*There has been a major earthquake. At 7:12 p.m. this evening, San Francisco and the surrounding areas were rocked by an earthquake that experts say may have measured as high as 7.5 on the Richter Scale. It is believed to be one of the worst earthquakes to hit this area in decades. Initial estimates say that the quake lasted for approximately 40 seconds and that the danger from the earthquake may not be over. There could be more shaking. The city's telephone network is paralyzed. Electrical wires are down and a number of fires are burning throughout San Francisco. Gas explosions and water main ruptures are occurring throughout the city. Many buildings in the downtown area appear to be severely damaged. City officials say they may be forced to shut down all utility services in order to prevent fire outbreaks. Many freeway overpasses have collapsed and most of the San Francisco surface streets are clogged with debris and abandoned cars. Air traffic does not appear to be coming in or out of the San Francisco International Airport. Unofficially, the mayor was reported as saying that it could be 72 hours or more before city repair crews are able to restore communications and utilities. The mayor also requested that city residents stay off the streets, except for emergencies, until further notice and be prepared to be on their own for at least three days. Stay tuned for more updates...*

"It really does sound bad."

"I wonder how long it will take someone to find us? Oh no!! The aftershocks are starting already."

**Within 10 minutes of the quake, a violent aftershock occurs and stirs up more dust and debris in the basement.**

"How are we ever going to survive this? Being stuck in the basement during these aftershocks isn't very comforting."

"At least they know there is damage to buildings in our area. Maybe they will look for us right away."

"I don't know. With all these aftershocks, it may be awhile before they are able to dig us out."

"You can never tell with these things. We might be here for awhile, or someone may find us right away, so we need to make the best of it. Anyone find something we can use to look around a bit?"

"I found a flashlight. Let's do an inventory of what we have to work with."

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group Members \_\_\_\_\_

### The Situation

After searching through the rubble you find:

- A working, battery-operated radio
- Two candles
- Cleaning supplies
  - Mop, bucket, bleach, window cleaner, screwdriver, wrench, and work gloves
- A first-aid kit:
  - Bandages, antiseptic, gauze, and aspirin
- A package of matches
- A coffee machine, half pot of coffee, and three packages of coffee
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- Four leftover chicken salad sandwiches in the refrigerator and two bags of chips (from the lunch meeting earlier in the day)
- Three full ice-cube trays in the freezer
- Six cans of cola

### Action steps

There are 7 action steps you should take to ensure your survival and rescue and 5 action steps that you should not take because they are either unnecessary or may harm you. Decide which 7 of the action steps listed you would take, assigning a “1” to what you would do first, a “2” to your second step, etc. (1-7). Then continue the ranking with the remaining 5 steps you would not take numbering them 8-12, twelfth being reserved for the most dangerous or least helpful step, eleventh, the next less dangerous step, etc.

Complete the individual ranking without discussing the situation with anyone else. Place your answers in Column A. Next, repeat the process in teams. Select, by consensus, the sequence that the team thinks makes the most sense. Put the team answers in Column B. Finally, compare your answers and your team answers with those determined by experts, which you will write in Column C.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group Members \_\_\_\_\_

### The Situation

Action Steps	A Your Rank	B Team Rank	C Expert Rank
Attempt to remove the rubble from the entrance to the first floor			
Divide the sandwiches and ration them over the next few days			
Light the candles so you can see and rescuers will be able to locate you			
Locate and secure a water supply			
Divide the sandwiches and eat them this evening			
Discuss long-term survival strategies as a group			
Pound on the pipes with the steel wrench			
Assign someone to monitor the radio and listen for updates			
Check for injuries and administer first-aid			
Shut off all utilities			
Develop day and night signaling techniques/begin signaling immediately			
Purify the water source			

Name \_\_\_\_ **KEY** \_\_\_\_\_ Group Members \_\_\_\_\_

### The Situation

Action Steps	A Your Rank	B Team Rank	C Expert Rank
Attempt to remove the rubble from the entrance to the first floor			<b>11</b>
Divide the sandwiches and ration them over the next few days			<b>10</b>
Light the candles so you can see and rescuers will be able to locate you			<b>12</b>
Locate and secure a water supply			<b>4</b>
Divide the sandwiches and eat them this evening			<b>7</b>
Discuss long-term survival strategies as a group			<b>6</b>
Pound on the pipes with the steel wrench			<b>9</b>
Assign someone to monitor the radio and listen for updates			<b>3</b>
Check for injuries and administer first-aid			<b>2</b>
Shut off all utilities			<b>1</b>
Develop day and night signaling techniques/begin signaling immediately			<b>5</b>
Purify the water source			<b>8</b>